



NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 4 - Oakland
Contact: Allyn Amsk
Phone: (510) 286-5445

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROPOSITION 1B-FUNDED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS WILL BRING CONGESTION RELIEF FOR BAY AREA MOTORISTS

LIVERMORE - Relief is on its way for 150,000 daily commuters on Interstate 580, which is one of the most congested freeways in the Bay Area. Today, Caltrans held a groundbreaking event to open five miles of what will eventually be an 11-mile High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane.

The project includes \$123 million from Proposition 1B, the statewide transportation bond championed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and passed by voters in the November 2006 general election.

"When the people of California voted for the Proposition 1B transportation bond they wanted action - and this is that action," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "This project will not only help relieve traffic congestion and improve the quality of life for Bay Area commuters - it is helping stimulate California's economy when we need it the most."

To date, more than \$13.1 billion has been committed to 1,492 projects across the state for high-priority transportation corridor improvements, state highway safety and rehabilitation projects, local street and road improvement, congestion relief, and traffic safety, among several other projects to improve California's aging infrastructure.

"We are finally able to open a new lane to bring congestion relief in this corridor that is so important to the region and to the state," said Scott Haggerty, who is a commissioner for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. "It is fitting that Interstate 580 received corridor mobility improvement funding from Proposition 1B, and that the project is on time and on budget."

Caltrans announced that it has started construction on the second phase of the project, which includes finishing the HOV lane and adding a future interchange at Isabel Avenue/State Route 84. Contractors for Caltrans, the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority, and local partners began work on the fifth lane for eastbound I-580 last August. The \$153 million project received \$65 million in Proposition 1B funds.





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Funding was approved by the California Transportation Commission and disbursed through the state's Corridor Mobility Improvement Account.

Interstate 580 in Pleasanton and Livermore is one of the most congested routes in the Bay Area. The commute eastbound in the evening was the third worst in the Bay Area last year, and worst on a per-mile basis, according to a study released earlier this year by Caltrans and MTC, with more than 5,200 vehicle hours of delay every day.

"The new HOV lane is an important step in our overall plan to reduce or manage congestion in the Tri-Valley area," said Dennis Fay, Executive Director of the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency. "The agency is working cooperatively with federal, state and regional agencies to implement roadway improvements as quickly as practical."

The new State Route 84/I-580 interchange is intended to relieve congestion at the existing Airway/580 interchange and improve access to homes, businesses, Las Positas College, and future development north of I-580. There will be two additional crossings over I-580, and the partial-access Portola interchange will be replaced by a flyover extension of Portola Avenue that will connect to Isabel Avenue and Portola Avenue north of the freeway.

The realignment of State Route 84 to the new interchange will provide an alternate route to southbound I-680 and reduce congestion at the I-580/I-680 interchange.

The interchange project is funded with \$68 million Proposition 1B transportation funds, \$26 million in Alameda County Measure B sales tax funds, \$11 million in federal funds, \$10 million Tri-Valley Transportation Council funds, and other local development contributions and City of Livermore funds.

Motorists can keep up-to-date on the I-580 corridor improvements online at www.i580.info. The website has details on all aspects of the improvement projects.

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